Need to withdraw excise duty levied on granite−Laid.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : Recent proposals announced by the Finance Minister wherein benefits of Small Scale Industries on granite have been withdrawn and an alarming 16 per cent Central Excise Duty has been imposed causing immense difficulty to the granite industry.

Presently there are about 850 Small Scale manufacturing units and about 150 quarries of granite stone in Rajasthan and Gujarat employing about 2 lacs persons. These small granite units are working like cottage industries in our country. In majority of these units owners and their family members themselves work as self employed. The production cost of granite is about 8 to 10 times higher than the production cost of marble. The raw material's cost is 4 to 6 times higher than marble.

The average selling price of marble and granite is about Rs. 50/- per sq. feet whereas excise duty on marble is around Rs. 2.80 per sq. feet and on Granite it has been raised to Rs. 8/- per sq. feet.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to kindly withdraw Central Excise Duty imposed on granite.